Dear Bud,

12/16/75

Driving to Washington yesterday was much too much for me. The doctor had told me after discharging me from the hospital that he saw no problem with it but this much later it tired me to where I had to lie down as soon as I got to Jim's. This leads to my purpose in writing.

I have no special problem driving short distances, like to the local bus station. There is a 7 a.m. bus that will get me to Washington in time for the doctor's appointment. I've made the dental appointment in northwest with enough lag to be able to take a bus there. Jim will pick me up and we'll go to your office. We have many other matters to discuss until you are ready. I will have to return on a bus that leaves Greyhound a little after 2. If it is necessary, there is a later express bus for which Lil is now phoning to get the time. The local takes more than two hours and is more crowded. The later express is 5:45. Only if you want the time will I wait for the 5:45. I'm willing, if you have the need. And the time.

Before then, unless there is another delay, the Times' pieces will have begun. The DJ and FBI and making an enormous effort with the Times (at least). Some of it will be quite helpful to us. We agree on Crewdson's position. We do not know if it represents Times' position (I think it does) or if it will prevail. I've been devoting much time and effort to this. By then we may know more about what CBS is up to. I've taken an couple of what might be defenses in the form of initiatives there. They have paid Cliff for an interview between his stays in different jails. The most obvious purpose is against you and Bob. I have an idea of a proper if ex poste facto position for you in the event this is what they are up to. Whatever the Times is up to may not provide the opportunities CBS dirtywork can. Again, I have taken a few steps in advance.

While I waited for you yesterday I tried to help Beth as much as I could. I presume this is in the distance-keeping Downing's interest and your own. The entire thing is one of the by now depressingly large number of proofs of the lack of wisdom of the entire approach. I don't expect any of you to be willing to change or to consider it. My own view is that had there not been a combination of so much ego, self-seeking and ignorance the whole thing could and would have been broken open by now. I have taken no Hill initiatives re JFK and will not. I'll help where I can but for the most part only where I am in agreement with the approach and not assured that some self-seeker is not going to be able to work at cross purposes behind my back. I just don't have the time or energy to waste where I can't compete and don't want to. But if at any time I have to unload, I will. Everything I see is superficial and if it succeeds will lead to another coverup. I see those who have been abused by those who have great personal ambition and little knowledge and no concern for accuracy as victims and for whatever real value this wrong approach could have served, about all of it lost. There were temporary headlines that served to accomplish nothing but did turn some Members off.

If you ever change your mind I'll be willing to discuss this, if there is what I see as a prospect of Congressional followthrough. If I have the assurances I would be willing to risk the literary properties. Unless and until something like this happens I'll continue doing as much of my own thing as my present limitations and the time taken to mail books out permits.

Best,